

The present application is related to an application for US Letter patent, entitled "Usage Based Strength Between Related Information in an Information Retrieval System" by the present inventors, assigned to the assignee of the present application, having U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/549,568, and filed concurrently on even date herewith, April 14, 2000.

On page 7, lines 1-3, the paragraph is replaced with:

into searchable words and corresponding locations. An example of a known search engine and the associated index may be found from, e.g. U.S. Patent No. 6,021,409 issued February 1, 2000 to Michael Burrows, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

Sub C3  
A2  
16. (Once Amended) The apparatus for providing a context sensitive mapping according to claim 13, further comprising:

a database update mechanism configured to store said new record entry in said database.

#### REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated June 20, 2002 and the reference cited therein. In response thereto, the specification and claim 16 are now amended. Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application.

The amendments made in the specification is to correct some informalities. Also, the brief description of Fig. 5A on page 4 is now deleted because there is no Fig. 5A or any detailed description of Fig. 5A.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned “**Marked-up Version Showing Changes.**”

*Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112*

Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, because claim 16 is dependent from claim 3. Claim 16 is amended to depend from claim 13 to overcome the informality rejection.

*Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102*

Claims 1-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by de Hita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,774) (hereinafter “de Hita”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a method of providing a context sensitive mapping of a plurality of help informational items in an information retrieval system. Besides the other features, claim 1 recites the method comprising the steps of providing a database having one or more record entries, the one or more record entries defining relationships between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items; and if one or more matching record entries exit, providing an access to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to the originating location according to the one or more record entries.

de Hita discloses a conventional content based natural language information retrieval system. More particularly, de Hita discloses a natural language information retrieval system which represents the content of a language-based database being searched as well as the user’s natural language query. The system creates a database index utilizing a pattern dictionary that includes synonyms and skip words and a morphosyntactic dictionary that includes morphological and syntactic information for words in the natural language of the language-based database and

the natural language query (see at least Abstract). de Hita fails to disclose or teach a system that provides a navigational trail of the locations of information that a user follows so that a subsequent user looking for the same information does not have to duplicate the time and effort, i.e., re-invent-the-wheel, in order to find the same information. As such, de Hita does not disclose or teach a database having one or more record entries which define relationships between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, such that if one or more matching record entries exit, an access is provided to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to the originating location according to the one or more record entries, as recited in claim 1. Such relationship between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items provides a navigational trail for a subsequent user.

The database index 530 as described in column 12, lines 20-26 and shown in Fig. 5 of de Hita merely comprises of a series of records, each record representing the content of a help file of help project 114. As disclosed further in de Hita, "In each record, there are two portions. A first portion 530A provides the name of the help file, the title of the help item and the key terms of the help items, and a second portion 530B provides a linguistic image of the sentences in the help file." There is no disclosure or teaching of a database having one or more record entries which define relationship between originating locations from which help requests are originated and corresponding ones of the plurality of help informational items, such that if one or more matching record entries exit, an access is provided to one or more associated help informational items corresponding to the originating location according to the one or more record entries, as recited in claim 1. There is no motivation for de Hita to disclose or suggest the recited features because de Hita is a content based retrieval system. de Hita is based on the content and language of the database, not location relationships as recited. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 patentably distinguishes over de Hita.

Claims 2-10 which are dependent from claim 1 are also patentable for at least the same reasons above.

Claims 11, 21, and 24 also recite the features discussed above. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11, 21, and 24 and their dependent claims, claims 12-20, 22-23, and 25-33, respectively, are patentable over de Hita.

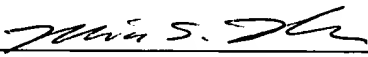
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the below signed at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: Dec. 20, 2002

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**MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES**IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 1, lines 5-8, the paragraph is replaced with:

The present application is related to an application for US Letter patent, entitled “Usage Based Strength Between Related Information in an Information Retrieval System” by the present inventors, assigned to the assignee of the present application, having [an attorney docket No. 5482] U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/549,568, and filed concurrently on even date herewith, April 14, 2000.

On page 4, please delete lines 24-26.

On page 7, lines 1-3, the paragraph is replaced with:

into searchable words and corresponding locations. An example of a known search engine and the associated index may be found from, e.g. U.S. Patent No. [6,02,409] 6,021,409 issued February 1, 2000 to Michael Burrows, the entirety of which is hereby incorporated by reference [herein].

IN THE CLAIMS

16. (Once Amended) The apparatus for providing a context sensitive mapping according to claim [3] 13, further comprising:

a database update mechanism configured to store said new record entry in said database.